4

幽麗塔

乃木坂太郎

～黒岩涙香[幽霊塔]より～

BIG COMIC SUPERIOR

スペリオール
BIG COMICS

幽麗塔

4

口減らし

乃木坂太郎

小学館
BC4860

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雑誌 45798-60　　小学館

TETSUO IS
THE SUPPOSEDLY DEAD RIKA?

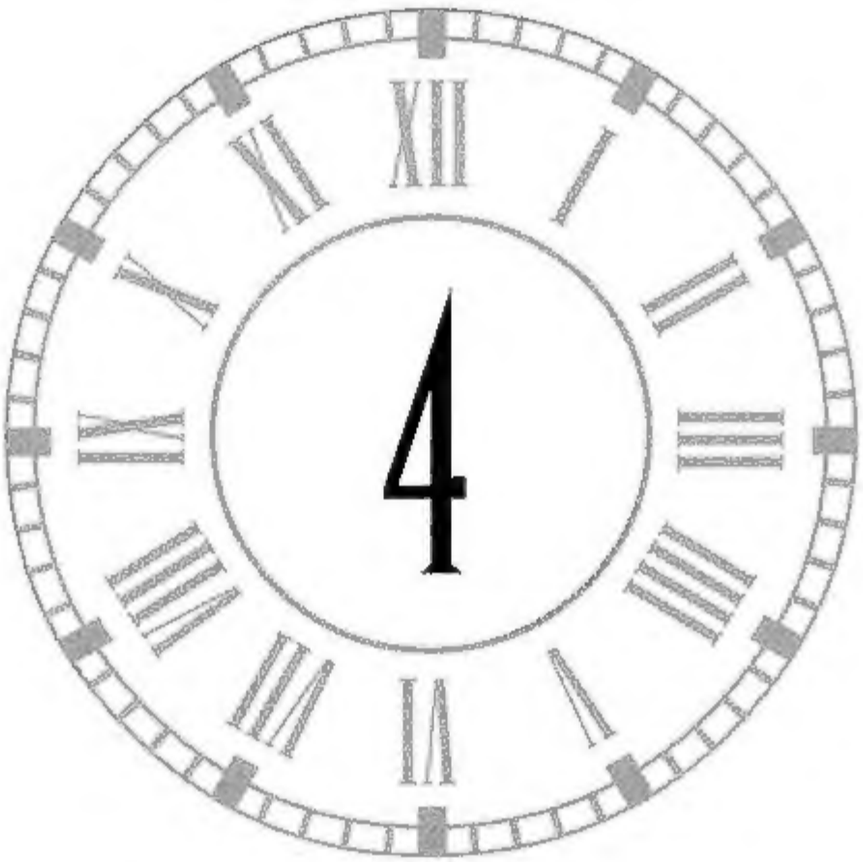
THE MAZE UNDER THE GHOST TOWER GOT CAUGHT UP IN FLAMES AND SO DID THE MURDEROUS DEMON [SHIBANMUSHI], HOWEVER IT'S BODY HASN'T BEEN FOUND.

THE MURDERS OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO GOT KILLED IN THE MAZE BY SHIBANMUSHI GET PINNED ON AMANO AND TETSUO WHO DISAPPEARED.
THE TWO ARE NOW ON THE RUN AND AMANO HAS TO DRESS AS A GIRL IN ORDER TO HIDE.
A MAN DRESSED AS A WOMAN AND A WOMAN DRESSED AS A MAN, TOGETHER THEY CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY.
AND THEN THEY COME A CROSS A NOVEL, THE CONTENTS OF WHICH ARE CONNECTED TO THE MYSTERY OF THE GHOST TOWER.

4

THE GHOST TOWER

BIG COMIC SUPERIOR



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CHAPTER 27 - ONLY ME

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SO YOU WOKE UP.
[Q]!
TES-LA!!
WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING TO ME?
DO YOU PLAN ON USING ME IN ONE OF YOUR EXPERI-MENTS AGAIN?
THAT'S ALL A THING OF THE PAST.
RIGHT NOW YOU'RE BUT A PATIENT.
FROM HERE ON, I'LL BE TENDING TO THE WOUND ON YOUR LEG.
.....

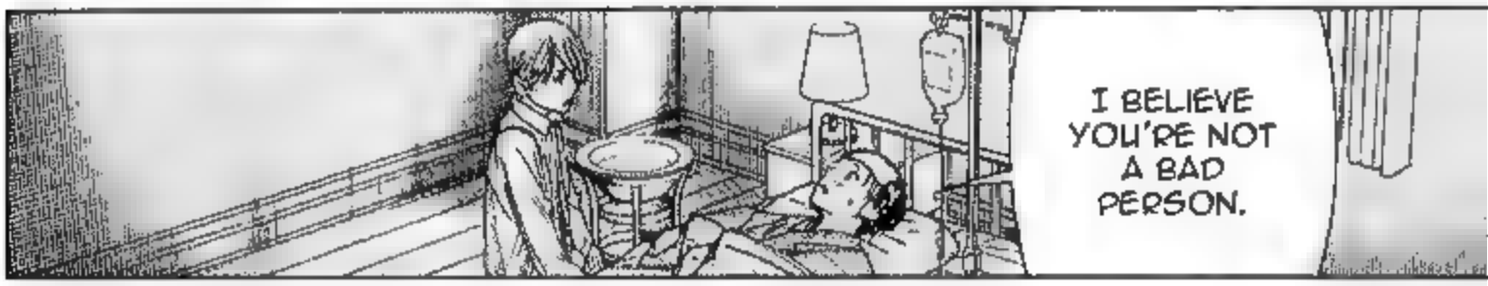
BUT I'LL GIVE YOU LOCAL ANESTHESIA SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO LOOK AT ME WORK.
I'LL BE DONE IN A MO-MENT.
YOU'RE LUCKY.
YOU GOT CUT NICELY ALONG THE MUSCLE SO YOUR RECOVERY SHOULD BE FAST.
...I SEE.
TETSUO BROUGHT ME HERE...
HOW'S TETSUO?
.....
4
I'LL LOOK AT HIM AFTER I'M DONE WITH YOU.
HE'S FINE.
TETSUO'S A GIRL,
SO MAKE SURE YOU HEAL HER WOUNDS SO THAT THEY WON'T LEAVE A SCAR...

AMANO-KUN.
AMANO-KUN.
AMANO-KUN.
TETSUO!!
.....
THING IS...
I'M ACTUALY A WOMAN.
I'M SORRY FOR LYING TO YOU...
DO YOU HATE ME NOW...?
NO WAY.
I DON'T HATE YOU...
YOU ARE A REAL BEAUTY.

WHICH ONE IS PRETTIER?
REAL-LY?
YEAH.
...THEN,
BETWEEN ME AND HANAZO-NO-SAN,
!?

OUCH!
AH,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF.
IT'S ALRIGHT

I'LL BE THE ONE PROTECTING YOU.
NEXT TIME,
I'M RIKA THE MURDERER?
EVEN THOUGH,
I BELIEVE YOU.

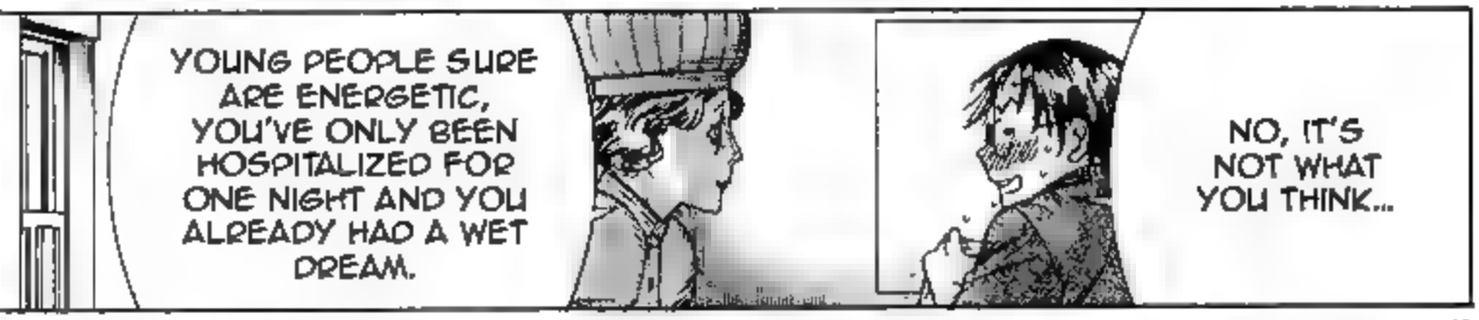

I BELIEVE YOU'RE NOT A BAD PERSON.

YOU WERE ACCUSED OF BEING THE MURDERER, SO YOU COULDN'T BE HONEST.
YOU HAD NO CHOICE.
I'M A LIAR.

YOU'RE WRONG
.....
TETSUO?
PRE-TEND-ING TO BE A GUY, WAS ALSO JUST SOMETHING YOU HAD TO DO IN ORDER TO HIDE, RIGHT?

NLO
SNG
VE ALL
THIS
TNE
WAS
TE
SLO

wish
wosh
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOUR WOUND WILL OPEN.
AH!!
HMMM~
I SEE~


YOUNG PEOPLE SURE ARE ENERGETIC, YOU'VE ONLY BEEN HOSPITALIZED FOR ONE NIGHT AND YOU ALREADY HAD A WET DREAM.
NO, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK...

.....
IF ME MEETING TETSUO...
EVEN IF SHE HATES IT, TAKE HER BY FORCE.
HI HI HI.
SEE YA.
SHE SEEMS TO HAVE A LOT OF PRIDE, BUT YOU SHOULD TREAT HER LIKE A BITCH IN HEAT.
MHM....
GOT THAT?
SHE'S WAITING FOR YOU!
YOU SHOULD'VE ASKED THE GIRL TO HELP YOU OUT
YOU TWO SPENT THE NIGHT TOGETHER, DID YOU NOT? HIHIHI
NO WAY...

THAT I MET SUCH A BEAUTIFUL GIRL WHO WOULD SHAPE MY INTERESTS.
THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE,
WAS A FATED ENCOUNTER,
HANAZONO-SAN NEVER TOOK ME INTO CONSIDERATION
IN THE END,
THEN I WANT TO CHERISH HER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE...
SHE TOLD ME I'M THE ONLY ONE SHE HAS..
INSIDE THAT FIRE,
ARE SOMETHING EVERY MAN WANTS TO HEAR..
SUCH WORDS,

BAM
SLAM

SWOOSH

.....
AMAZ-
ING
SLAM

NOPE.
SHE SEEMS TO BE IN GOOD FORM.
YOU ...
WERE YOU LEFT-HANDED?
I ALWAYS THREW WITH MY LEFT HAND AS A KID.
BUT IN BASEBALL MY LEFT HAND IS BETTER.
14
SLAM
BUT WITH THIS BODY I COULD'VE ONLY JOINED A FEMALE LEAGUE.
I COULD'VE EVEN BECOME A PRO.
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.
WANNA GO FOR A WALK?

THIS IS JUST HYPO-THETI-CALLY SPEAK-ING BUT
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF OFFICER YAMASHINA WAS A WOMAN?
AND IF HE D HAVE REALLY LARGE BREASTS

A MAN, SO I CAN'T SEE HIM AS A
IF I HAD THOUGHT HE
FEMALE FROM THE START, I
MAGINED IT, BUT...
PLEASE

I'M NOT DRESSING AS A MAN,
IN ORDER TO STAY HIDDEN.
I HATED MY FEMALE BODY,
SO I SCREAMED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO HAVE A HOARSE VOICE, AND TORE ALL MY GIRLY CLOTHES.
I ALSO USED HORMONES
I DID MANY THINGS.
THE NAME RIKA WAS ALSO GIVEN TO ME BY THE INSTITUTION.
....I HATED IT.
[TETSUO]
THAT WAS THE NAME I GAVE MYSELF WHEN I MET YOU.

PROTECT YOU.
SOMETHING LIKE FRIEND-SHIP... AND FROM NOW ON.... THAT'LL STAY THE SAME...
IF I RECALL,

WILL I BE ABLE TO KEEP MY FEELINGS FOR SUCH A BEAUTIFUL GIRL AT FRIENDSHIP LEVEL, FOREVER?
.....
CAN I DO THAT?
SPECIAL?
.....

YOU'RE THE EIGHTH ONE

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THE 7 BEFORE ME
.....
THE EIGHTH
I'M...

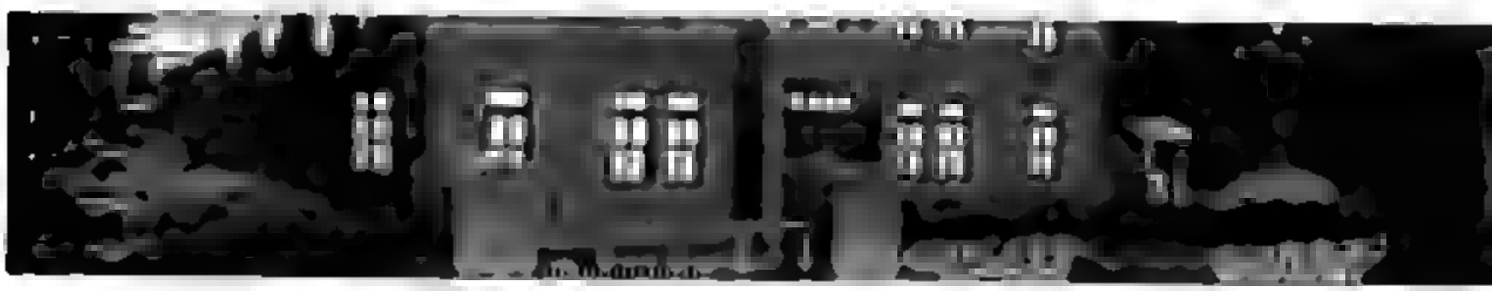
DID YOU ALSO LURE THEM IN WITH THE TREASURE STORY?
.....
THAT'S WHAT WORKED BEST
AND THESE PEOPLE ...
WHAT HAP-PENED TO THEM?
I PARTED WITH THEM.
BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT THEM TO GET HURT

LIVELY SCANS

IF YOU THINK BADLY OF ME,
LET'S PART HERE BEFORE YOU GET HURT.
THEN
.....
THAT'S NOT TRUE IS IT?

I'M.
ALWAYS YOU?
WASN'T THE ONE WHO GOT HURT.

OPPA-
SHI
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT ALREADY.
WE SHOULD GET BACK BEFORE WE CATCH A COLD.
THE WIND IS SO COLD



YOU TWO DO HAVE THE MONEY FOR THE TREATMENT, DON'T YOU?
I JUST WANT TO
WE DON'T COVER INSUR-
HUH? HOW?

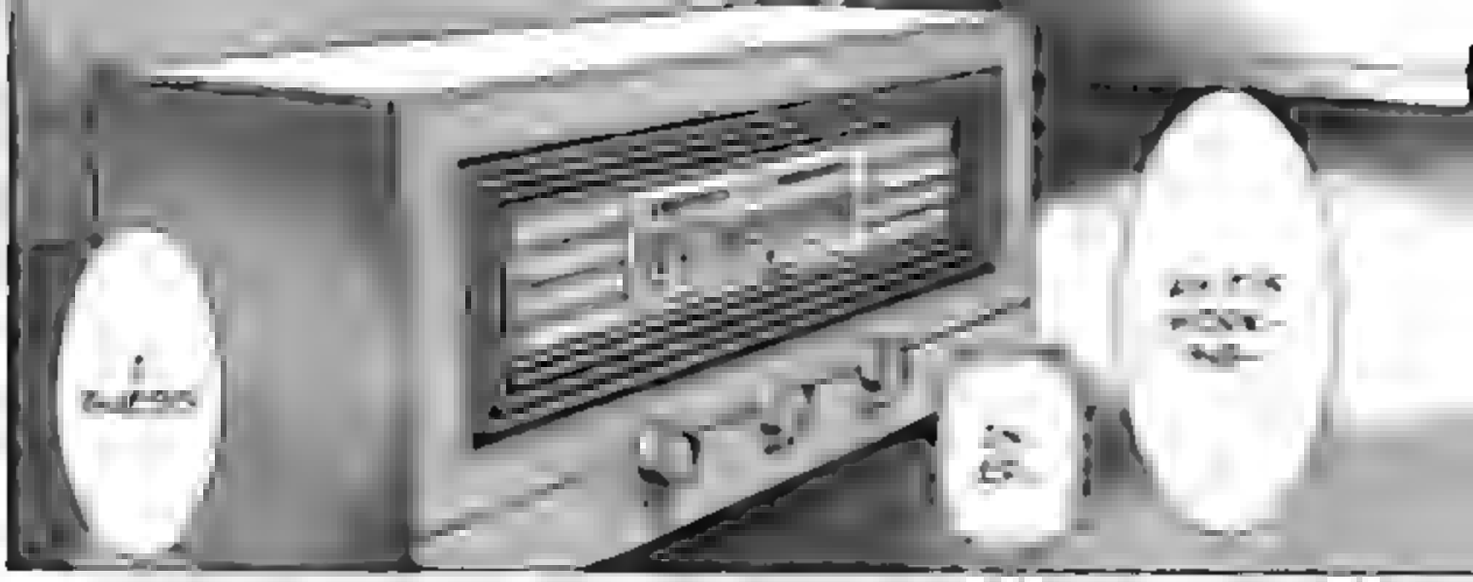
FOR EXAM-PLE,
WELL THERE ARE OTHER THINGS YOU COULD PAY WITH.
AMA-NO-KUN'S KID-NEYS.
I CAN'T LAUGH AT YOUR JOKES.
AHAHA-HA, I'M JUST KIDDING!!
WELL IT'S NOT AS IF WE'RE POOR, BUT WE DO NEED THE MONEY FOR LIVING EXPENSES AND SUCH.
WE'LL LEAVE YOU THE CAR AND YOU CAN DO WITH IT WHAT YOU WANT.
SORRY
AH.

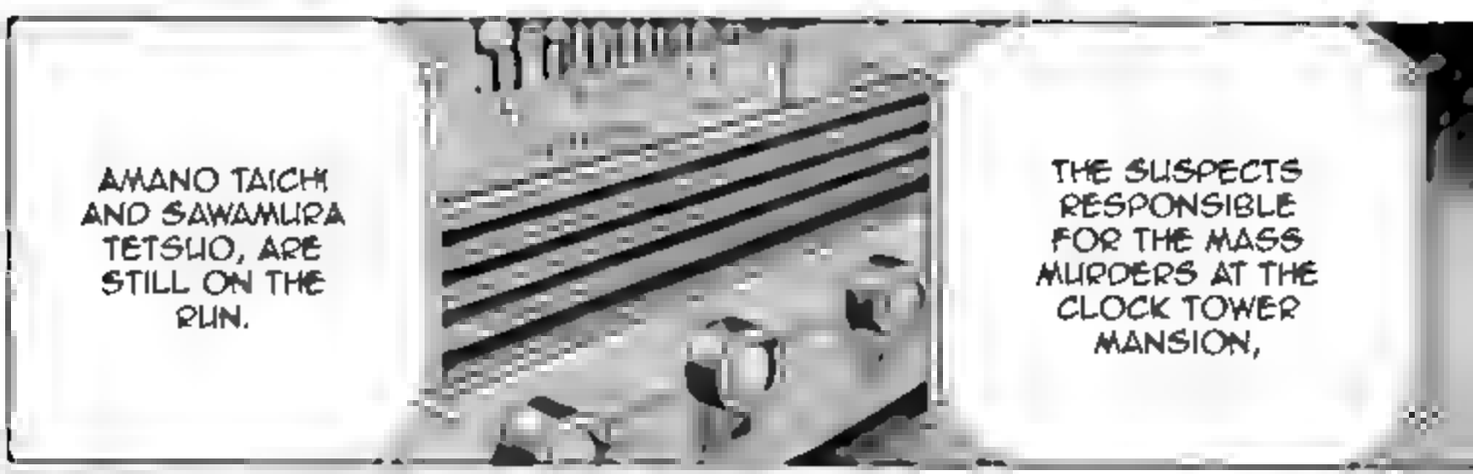
UH
RIGHT
IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, I'M TAKING THIS
I'M ACTING LIKE A GIRL
WHAT THE HELL AM I FUSSING ABOUT...
.....
REALLY NOW
IF I THINK ABOUT IT,
.....

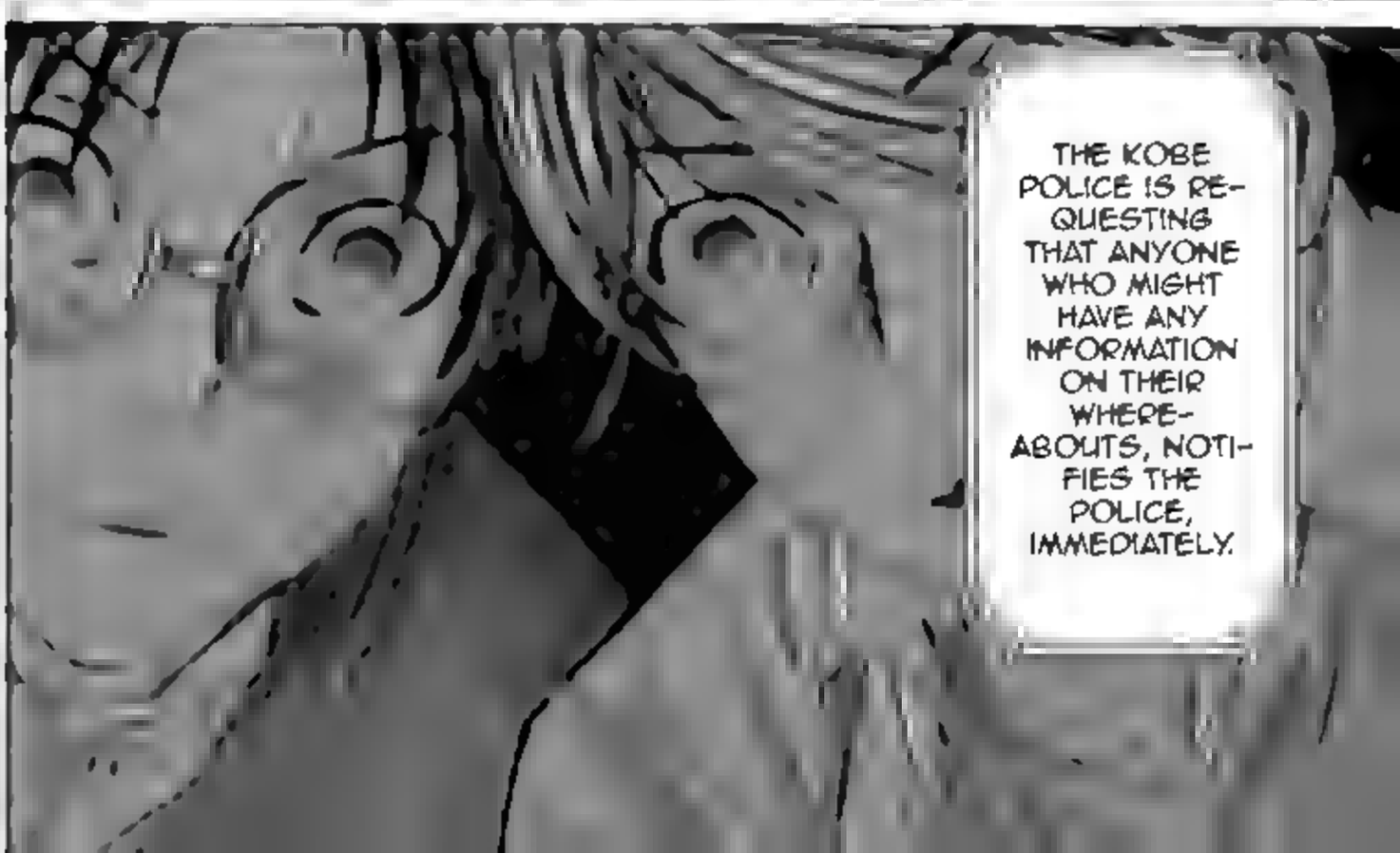
MORE MANLY THAN I AM.
MOR-NIN'
MOR-NIN'
TETSUO IS ACTING,

CATCH.

BY HIM, JUST LIKE A WOMAN.
I'M ALWAYS
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'LL FINISH UP THE EXACT.
WE DON'T GET ANY NEWSPAPERS HERE, SO WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING OUT THERE IN THE WORLD THE PAST WEEK.
I WAS REALLY INTO BUILDING MY BARRIER LIKE THERE IN THE PAST.
ME? YOU?
HUH? DEAL— ME WITH AS— SHARETY AND THE LIKE. HAHAHA.




AMANO TAICHI AND SAWAMURA TETSUO, ARE STILL ON THE RUN.
THE SUSPECTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASS MURDERS AT THE CLOCK TOWER MANSION,

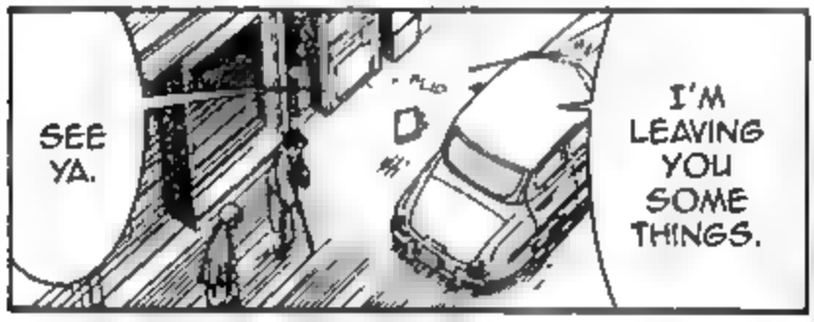

THE KOBE POLICE IS REQUESTING THAT ANYONE WHO MIGHT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THEIR WHEREABOUTS, NOTIFIES THE POLICE, IMMEDIATELY.

WE DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE
WE ARE AN UNLI-CENSED BUSI-NESS
NOW!
GET OUT OF HERE

LILY SCANS

YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL I'M NOT CALLING THE POLICE.

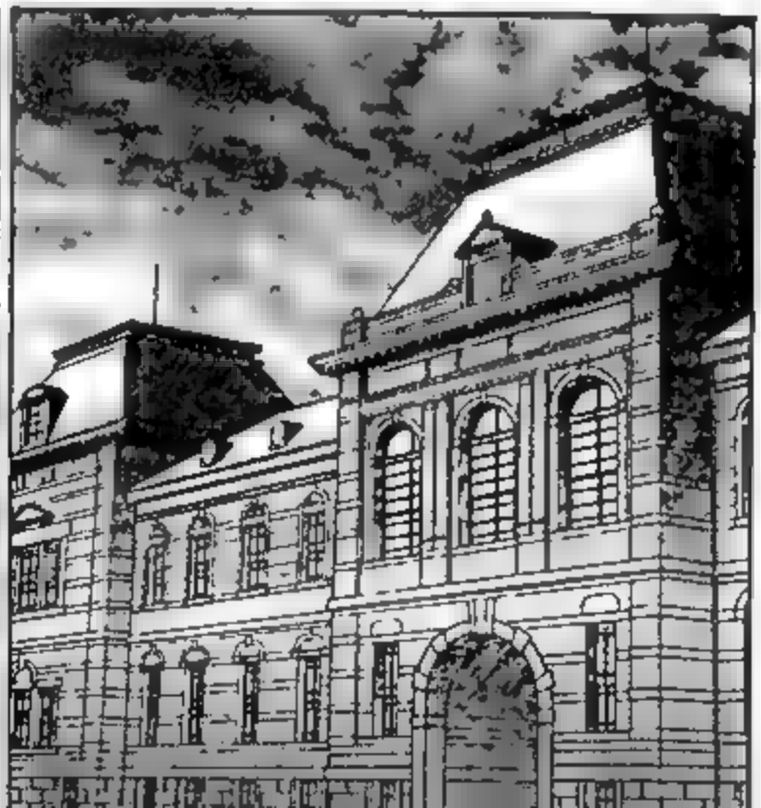
WE'LL GET CAUGHT IN NO TIME!!
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DROP US OFF AT THIS LIVELY PLACE!?


SEE YA.
I'M LEAVING YOU SOME THINGS.

STOP IT, AMANO-KUN!! YOU'RE ATTRACTING ATTENTION!!
[Q]!!

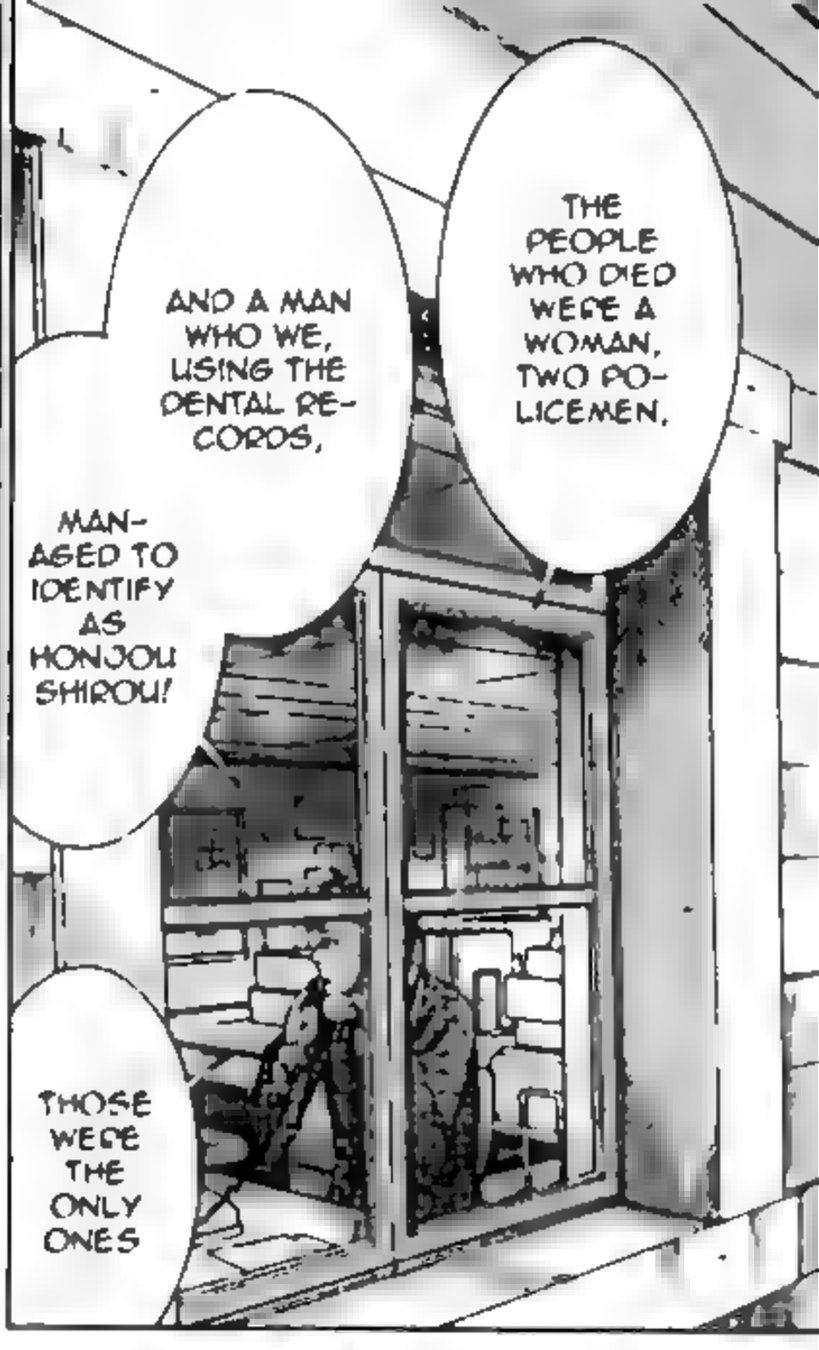
WE NEED TO ASK HIM WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!!
I'LL CONTACT YAMASHINA-SAN.

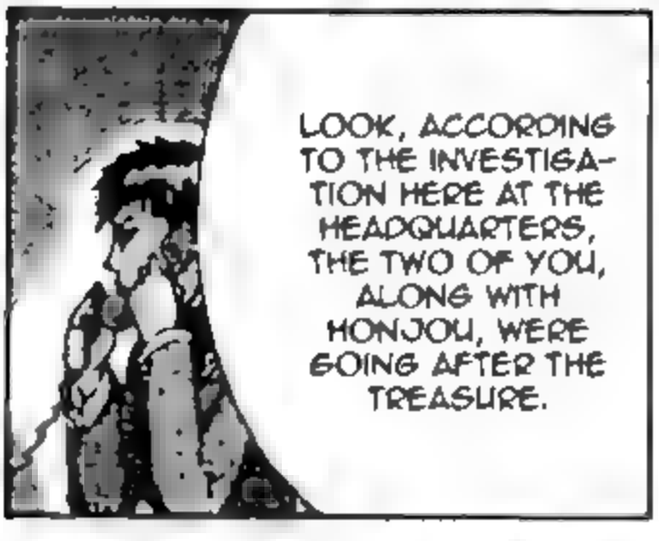
YAMASHINA SPEAKING.
YES.



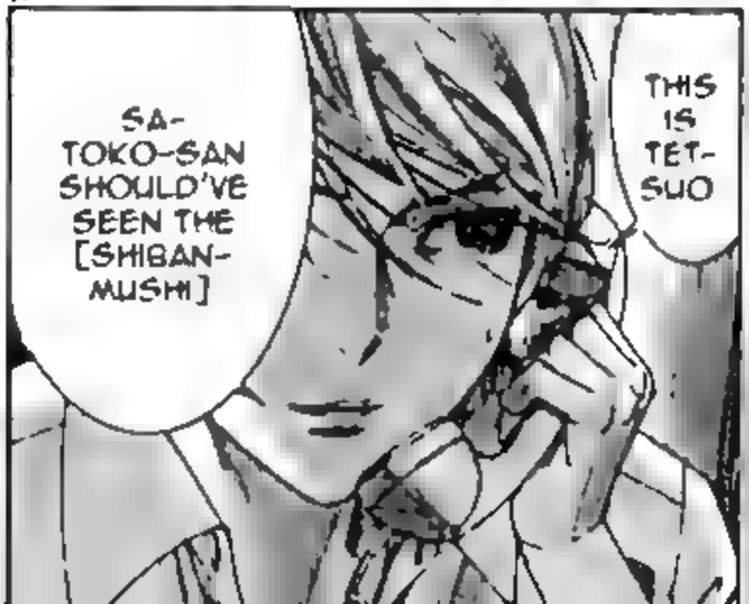
YOU GOT ANY CHANGE?

WHY ARE WE THE MAIN SUSPECTS!?
WHAT...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?
AGENCY
SINCE WE WERE LEFT
THE BODY OF THE TRUE CULPRIT SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE!!
AND [SHIBAMUSHI]?
THERE WAS NONE
.....


THE PEOPLE WHO DIED WERE A WOMAN, TWO POLICEMEN,
AND A MAN WHO WE, USING THE DENTAL RECORDS,
MANAGED TO IDENTIFY AS HONJOU SHIROU!
THOSE WERE THE ONLY ONES


LOOK, ACCORDING TO THE INVESTIGATION HERE AT THE HEADQUARTERS, THE TWO OF YOU, ALONG WITH HONJOU, WERE GOING AFTER THE TREASURE.

AND YOU TWO ENDED UP KILLING HIM.
BUT THEN YOU GUYS GOT INTO A FIGHT,


SA-TOKO-SAN SHOULD'VE SEEN THE [SHIBAN-MUSHI]
THIS IS TET-SUO

BUT THEN MARUBE [illegible] NOT INVOLVED,
WELL SHE DID THAT AT FIRST,
SHE SHOULD'VE TESTIFIED THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER PERSON NEXT TO SHIROU!
[illegible] COURT
WHAT?
YOU DON'T SEE ANY-THING
IT MAY SEEM [illegible] BUT DOESN'T SEE ANYTHING...
I MEAN NOW!

THE MAN WEARING A COAT...
WAS JUST AS THE PUBLIC PROSSECU-TOR SAID, HONJOU SHIROU

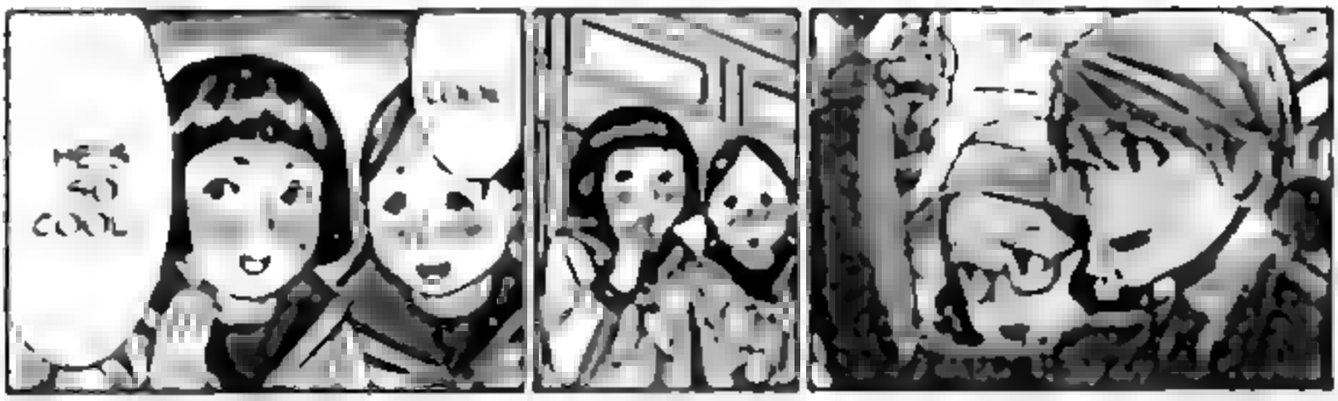
THEY'RE COMPLETELY TRYING TO ANNIHILATE THE POSSIBILITY OF A DIFFERENT CULPRIT.
I'LL TELL WHAT REALLY HAPPENED!!
I'LL STEP UP AND MAKE A STATEMENT.
IF YOU SHOW YOURSELF, THEY'LL JUST FUCK WITH YOUR RIGHTS AND LOCK YOU UP WITHOUT EVEN GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN.

SO STAY HIDDEN FOR A WHILE.
USING THE NAME
SAYING THE CULPRIT IS THE RE-NOWNED NOVELIST
SOMETHING, HAHAHA.
SOME WEIRDO WAS RE-PORTING SOMETHING AGAIN

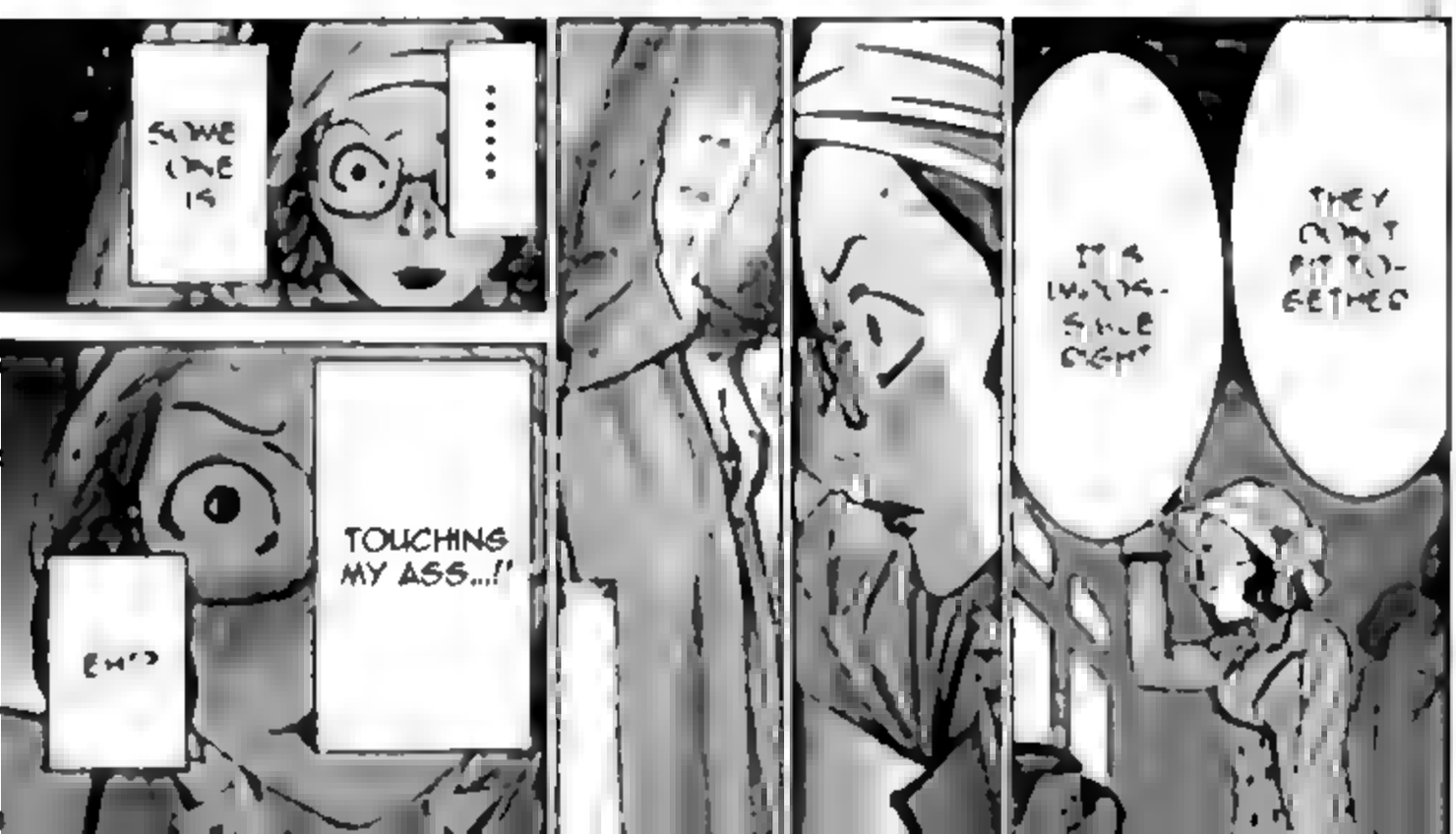
EEE
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
THE TRAIN STATION IS PROBABLY
TAKING A TAXI WOULD ALSO BE DANGER-OUS
DRESSING UP AS A WOMAN IS THE ONLY OPTION HERE.
!!

I'M ALREADY IN DISGUISE SO I WON'T BE SUSPECTED AS RIKA.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
WHY THE HELL DO I NEED TO DRESS UP AS A WOMAN!?
WE SOMEHOW LOOK LIKE A NEWLYWED COUPLE, DON'T WE?
WAIT,
IT'S A GENTLEMAN'S DUTY TO ESCORT A LADY ACROSS THE STREET.
DASH
I'LL GO BY MYSELF !!
CUT IT OUT,

HUH...
I-IT'S IT!
TE...MIT-
SUO-SAN.
TAKE-
SAN!
WATCH
OUT!


HE'S SO COOL

SHE LOOKS AWFUL. SHE COULDN'T BE HIS LOVER
BUT WHAT'S WITH THAT WOMAN


SOMEONE IS
.....
TOUCHING MY ASS...!'
EH?
IT'S WORKING-SHE'S RIGHT
THEY CAN'T FIT TOGETHER

THEY'RE MAD-STED!!
EEH- NO WAY!!
GET OFF AT THE NEXT STATION!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING TO MY WIFE!?
TETSUO IS
SO COOL!!

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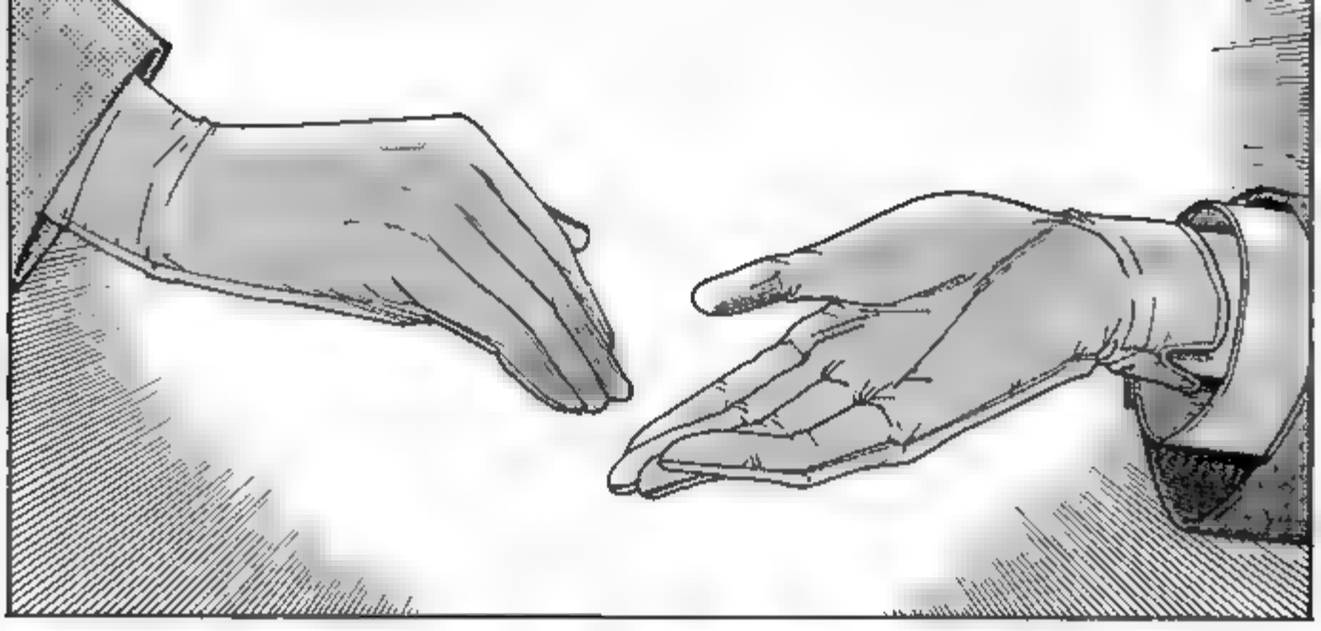
CHAPTER 29 MAN AND WOM



YOU'RE SUCH A GENTLE-MAN, MIT-SUO-SAN.
THANK YOU.
TAIKO-SAN!
WATCH YOUR STEP.
2
HOW'S YOUR LEG?
AND?

I CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER STEP!! I CAN'T MOVE!! I CAN'T EVEN STAND!!
I THREW AWAY THE CANE BE-CAUSE I WOULD STAND OUT TOO MUCH.
IN PAIN!
SUCH A TROUBLE-SOME WOMAN
.....
GIMME A SEC.
I'M NOT A WO-MAN!

.....
I CAN'T CARRY YOU ON MY BACK, NOW CAN I?
IF WE GET CAUGHT IT'S THE DEATH PENALTY.
WAIT A MIN-UTE,
ISN'T THAT STEAL-ING!?
SIT ON THE BACK
LET'S GO.
HURRY UP AND GET ON.

HOLD ON TIGHT.
TAIKO-CHAN.
.....
HE ACTED LIKE A REAL GENTLEMAN
HE'S SO KIND AND PERFECT FOR ME
WHAT THE HELL AM I THINKING ABOUT?

ALRIGHT
.....
BECAUSE THEY'LL GET SUSPICIOUS, OTHERWISE.
MAKE SURE TO BE FLASHY, GOT IT?
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

KYAH.
!!
DON'T YOU THINK THAT MADE US STAND OUT TOO MUCH..
YOU,
INSTEAD OF STANDING OUT LIKE THAT..
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF WE KEPT A LOWER PROFILE?
NO MATTER IF THEY'RE POLICEMEN OR WHATEVER. MEN ARE STILL MEN.
BESIDES,
BEING ALL QUIET AND RESERVED IN FRONT OF MEN JUST MAKES YOU STAND OUT EVEN MORE

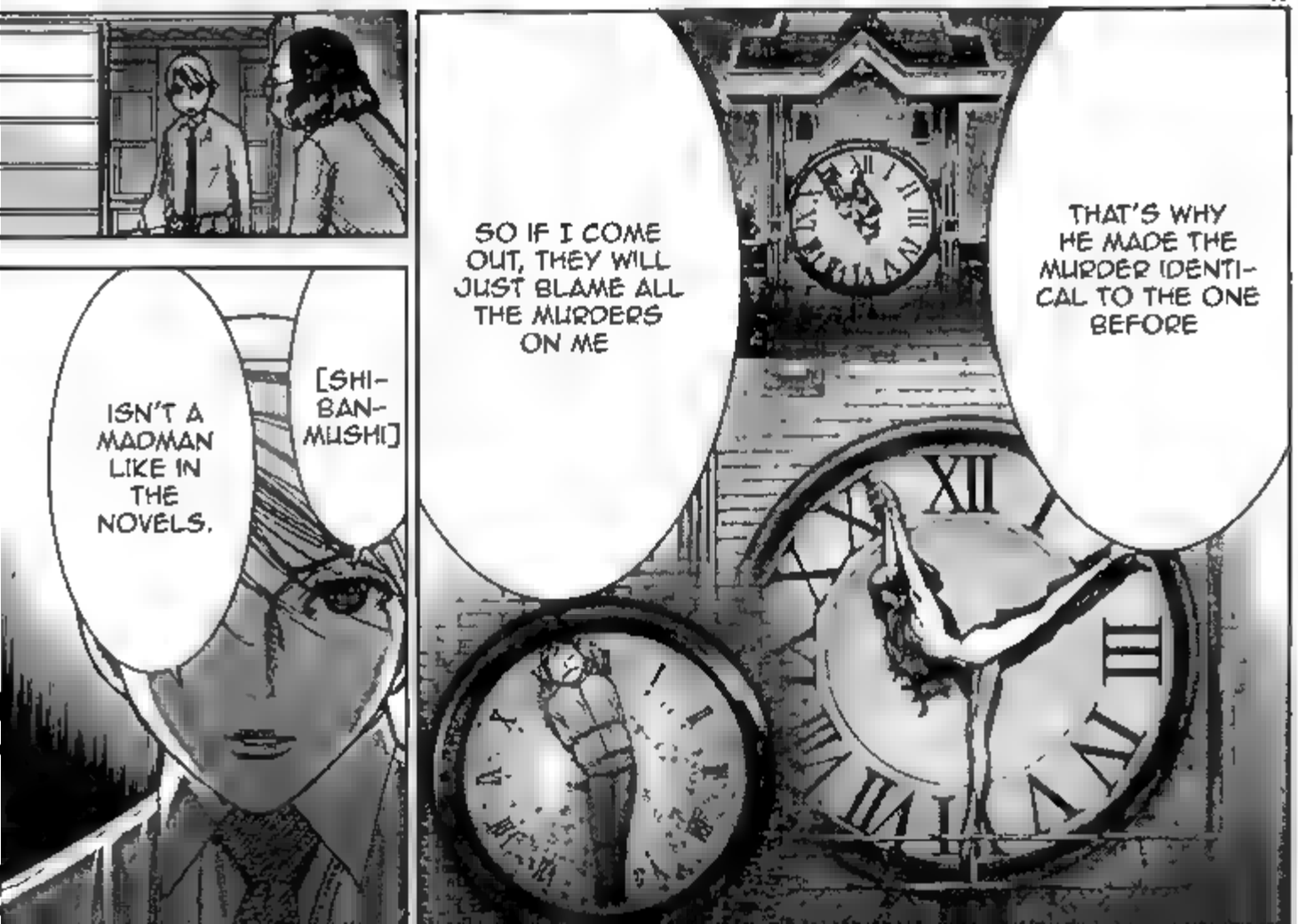
THEY INSTINCTIVELY WON'T LOOK AT A PRETTY-MAN'S FACE FOR LONG.
BECAUSE IT MAKES THEM FEEL INFERIOR
AHAHA-HAHAHA
THEY ALSO WON'T WANT TO LOOK AT SOMEONE UGLY, SO THAT PRETTY MUCH MAKES US THE PERFECT COUPLE WHEN IT COMES TO RUNNING AWAY, DON'T YOU THINK?
THAT'S RUDE!!
WHO'S UGLY!?
THIS PLACE LOOKS GOOD
WE'RE STAYING HERE FOR THE NIGHT.

ISN'T THIS
A LOVE HOTEL?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S A PLACE WHORES USE TO CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS, IT'S OBVIOUS.
HEY, WAIT JUST A MINUTE, THAT'S DISGRACEFUL!!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE, SINCE WE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE FAR WITH THAT LEG OF YOURS.
THIS PLACE IS PERFECT FOR US.
SINCE THE POLICE WON'T COME LOOKING HERE.
.....
ERM... I...
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A PLACE LIKE THIS BEFORE...
SO THIS ALL IS TOO EXCITING FOR ME...I MEAN I...
I'M SORRY,
FOR CALLING YOU UGLY BEFORE.

YOU
ARE UNEXPECT-
EDLY CUTE
.....
!!

WE NEED TO CATCH [SHIRAN-MUSHI] NO MATTER WHAT!!
IF WE DO THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO CLEAR YOUR NAME
YOU WON'T NEED TO RUN ANY-MORE
JUST FOR THE INFO,
I WON'T BE ABLE TO PROVE MY INNOCENCE NO MATTER WHAT

SO EVEN IF THE REAL CRIMINAL GETS CAUGHT, IT WON'T MAKE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE.
THEY ALREADY BUILT UP A CASE AGAINST ME AS THE CRIMINAL.
THERE'S NO WAY THEY'LL LET ME OFF.
BECAUSE THE PROSECUTORS WILL WANT TO SAVE FACE,
AND [SHIBANMUSHI] KNOWS THAT I WON'T COME OUT

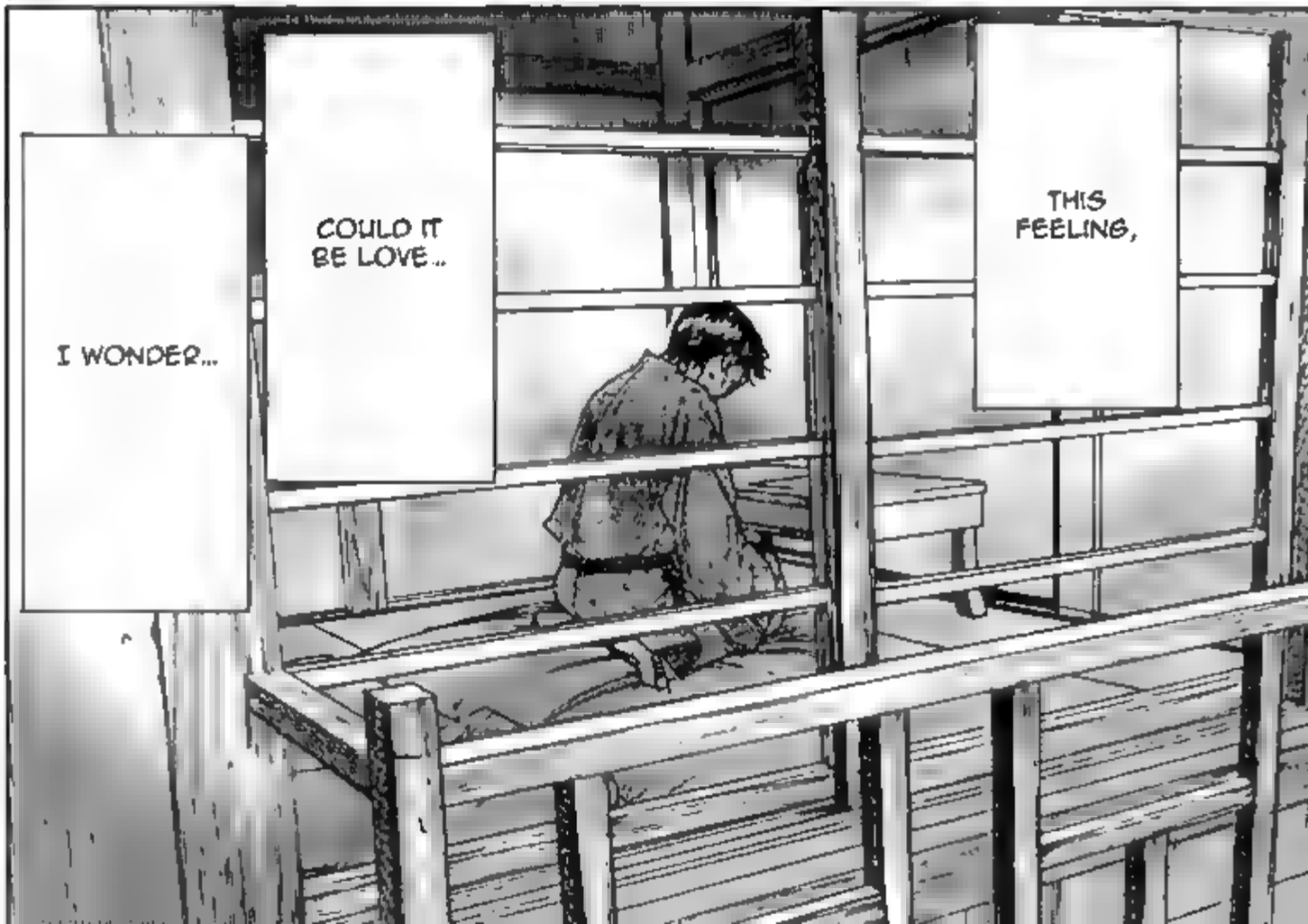

[SHIBANMUSHI] ISN'T A MADMAN LIKE IN THE NOVELS.
SO IF I COME OUT, THEY WILL JUST BLAME ALL THE MURDERS ON ME
THAT'S WHY HE MADE THE MURDER IDENTICAL TO THE ONE BEFORE

ALSO HAVE TO KEEP RUNNING UNTIL THE END OF MY LIFE?
WILL I
I'LL GET CAUGHT EVEN-TUALLY AND BE SEN-TENCED TO DEATH
NO.
HE'S A CALCULATING CRIMINAL.
17
I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOU
WE WON'T GET CAUGHT THAT EASILY.
BESIDES, I'VE BEEN RUNNING FOR 2 YEARS NOW. I'M A PRO AT THIS.

LILY SCANS

SO JUST STICK WITH ME,
TAIKO-CHAN
UH
.....
TETSUO!!
HE'S GONE!!
HE ABAN-DONED ME!!
I went shopping wait for me until I get back
Mitsuo

I'M GLAD...


I WONDER...
COULD IT BE LOVE..
THIS FEELING,

I'M LETTING HIM TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING...
HE'S PROTECTING ME AS A WOMAN
HE HELPS ME OUT WHEN I'M IN A PINCH,
BEING PROTECTED LIKE A HELP-LESS GIRL,
SOMEHOW, FEELS GOOD.
.....
AM I GETTING WEIRD..
NO,
EVEN A COMPLETELY STRAIGHT PERSON,
WOULD PROBABLY FEEL SOMETHING LIKE THIS DEEP DOWN INSIDE... RIGHT?

YOU WOKE UP.
RATTLE
OH?
MAYBE ALL MEN,
HAVE A PART IN THEIR HEARTS THAT MAKES THEM ACT THIS WAY.
I ALSO BOUGHT A NEWSPAPER AND A MAP.
HERE'S BREAK-FAST!
THESE UNSHAVED LEGS LOOK HORRIBLE...
SAKAI FUHEN-BOKU, HUH...
I ALSO BOUGHT MYSTERY NOVELS TO KILL TIME.
...I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT WAY. PLEASE LET IT BE THAT WAY.

I TOOK A LOOK AT THE TRAIN STATION.
.....
COMES FROM KOBE, SO HIS WORKS ARE ALWAYS ON DISPLAY.
THIS AUTHOR,
SO EVEN A SUBWAY WOULD BE IMPOS-SIBLE TO USE.
THE POLICE PUT OUR SKETCHES ALL OVER THE PLACE.

"THE GRAY MAZE"..
WE'LL WAIT FOR YOUR LEG TO HEAL AND THEN WE'LL GO TO OSAKA ON FOOT
GOING TO A BIG CITY WOULD BE THE SAFEST.
ARE YOU LISTEN-ING TO ME TAIKO-CHAN!?
THIS ONE WAS PUBLISHED 3 YEARS AGO.
OH, HAVE YOU READ IT ALREADY?
IT WAS ABOUT A MAZE UNDER AN OLD MANSION..
HEY! NO SPOILERS!!
IN ORDER TO LURE TREASURE HUNTERS INTO THE MAZE...
THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY LEFT HINTS ON PURPOSE,

AROUND USING THE SAFE SECRET
LEFT THE FELL FOR THE TRAPS THERE, LIKE A DISPLAY.
AND EACH NIGHT, IN HIS BEDROOM, DEEP INSIDE THE MAZE

WHILE THE SOUND OF THE BELL OF A GIANT CLOCK ECHOED THROUGH-OUT THE MAZE
AT FIRST I THOUGHT OF IT AS JUST A MERE BIZARRE NOVEL, BUT...
.....
THIS IS JUST LIKE...
WHAT'S WITH THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN MR. POLICEMAN?
HEY!!
I TOOK A LOOK AT YOUR QUEST BOOK AND YOU HAVE A BUNCH OF GUESTS WITH WEIRD NAMES.
I'M GOING TO CHECK ON THEM!!
OF COURSE WE'LL HAVE GUESTS WITH WEIRD NAMES.
WE ARE THAT TYPE OF HOTEL!!
NO ONE EVER COMES TO CHECK AROUND HERE!!

JUST HURRY IT UP! I'VE GOT A PLAN.
IT'LL DO NO GOOD, I'M NOT PROPERLY DRESSED!!
AND I HAVEN'T SHAVED MY LEGS!!
THIS IS BAD.
WHAT DO WE DO!?
TAIKO-CHAN, PUT ON YOUR WIG.
STEP
STEP

HIVEWAY SCANS

.....
EXCUSE ME FOR INTRUDING.
SO..NOT TWO GUYS....
JUST GET OUT AL-READY!
DAMN IT,
LATELY THE NUMBER OF YOUNG-STERS LIKE THAT SURE WENT UP.
YOUNG-STERS THESE DAYS, THEY'RE DOING IT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY!!

.....
I THOUGHT IT WOULDN'T WORK...
ARE YOU STILL TREM-BLING?
WELL, I JUST MADE USE OF THE SITUATION AT HAND.
SAKAI...
FUHENBOKU, WAS IT.
I DON'T THINK HE'S UNRELATED TO THE GHOST TOWER
ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION ON THE AUTHOR, HE'S CUR-RENTLY LIVING IN TOKYO...

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN TRAVEL THAT FAR!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!!
.....!!
LET'S GO MEET HIM.
IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK!!
THIS MIGHT JUST BE A COINCI-DENCE!!
24
DOESN'T IT ALSO INCLUDE THE ANSWER TO THE DIAL ON THE LOCK TO THE UN-DERGROUND MAZE?
YOU READ THIS NOVEL, DIDN'T YOU?
A BLACK CAT WITH A DIAMOND ON ITS COLLAR.
THE MAIN CHARACTER HAD A PET CAT

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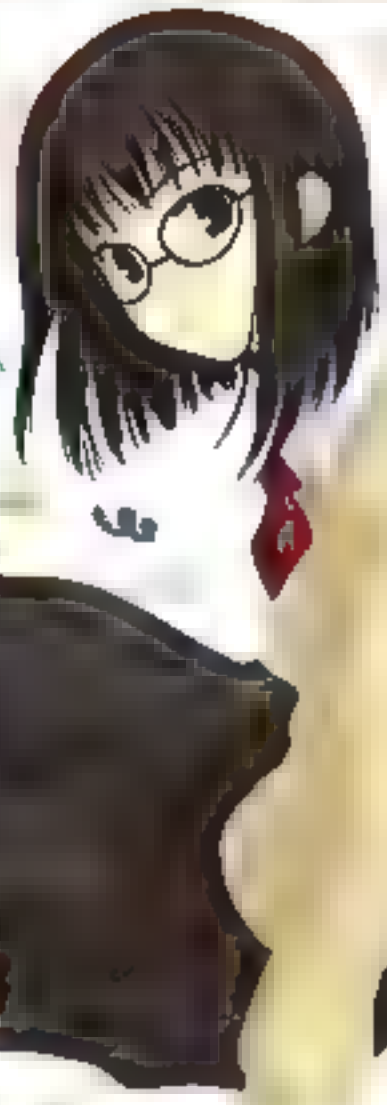
LiVelY sCaNs 2nd Year Anniversary!!



It's been another bumpy road for our 2nd year, but we're back stronger than ever! Thanks to the support of our fans, the old and new staff members, readers and, finally, you, our fans.

Also, thank you to the staff that worked very hard for this year's projects, our old members that left to pursue other interests, our current members that are still here, and those who helped us out in any way. Without you all, this project wouldn't have been possible. Again, Arigato Gozaimasu!!

Happy 2nd anniversary and lots of years from now to come with awesome projects. Hope that the LS community to grow larger and enjoy together the awesomeness of manga and manwa. Mwahaha

Wow..2nd Anniversary! Great!! I never thought I already joined with LS for one year. It's great can joined in here. Happy Anniversary everyone!
_aikaze69

LiVeLY sCaNs is now 2 years old and I've been in LS for an year and four months, I think. (God how I wish I joined this group 8 months earlier... xD) I've met a lot of people, but only saw a few of them go... and unfortunately there's people I don't wish to see talk to (its their abnormal existence. Is that horrible?) loking (maybe... not really) putting that aside, I've been busy/lazy stuck in a slump moved once mu tiple times with no Internet for few days. As a translator - It was really sad not being able to translate and release a few of my favorite manga.. (HKnE & TnT ftw!) I really hope more people get to know our variety of projects and visit our forum website to at least say hi or thank you. (Though if you do visit, I'd expect a lot more than that, o3o) I think I wrote too much, but thank you, readers (to the readers who actually read this long wall of words!) ^^)b

- Eragon Legend

Thanks so much for giving me a place here! Although I'm still learning the ropes, everyone's been so nice ^^ Lively Scans FTW!!

Happy Anniversary!!

epitomixer

I was honestly expecting a group of normal people when I joined LS. Now I've caught whatever it is you guys have. I'm still deciding if it's a good thing. jkjk Happy Anniversary guys!

p.s. I'm actually not kidding -Eternal

Wahh!! Another year went by? What? How? When?! It's been fun working with everyone, and I hope LS continues to grow. Sniff, it's grown so much.
Love ya, point7

It's been another great year and we're still alive. I'd like to thank all our members for making it possible, you guys are amazing!
Happy anniversary!

-Black Rabbit

What? 2nd anniversary? That means I've been here for a year now! *big shock*. How time flies. Anyways... I hope LS will continue to become even more popular and that our family will grow even larger <3 See you guys next year for our third!
~ Kuruka (Ewa)

Woo~ Happy Second Anniversary, Lively Scans!
(ノ*・∀・*)ノ
Thank you and congratulations!
I am so glad to have joined such a fu
group and have met so many interestin
people.
~Sokoro

LS is 2 years old! :D
Working with the team is such a pleasure. Thank you and congratulations to everyone for a job well done. Here's to more years of fantastic projects. Cheers!

-Zayu

Wow... close to one year has already passed, and we've seen new members come and go. I'd hereby like to thank both the current and the old members for helping LS grow to what it has become.
Happy anniversary all!

-Kiyiya

Wow, LS has been going on for two years? I didn't think it had been going on for so long, but that's probably because I haven't even been here a year. XD ~Nezumi

Another great year is coming
Thanks to everyone here at LS
for always making me feel belonged
Let's continue having fun together
next...next...next...years to come
Happy Anniversary
Beru Φ(・∀・*)

I've only done 2 or 3 chapters for LS. But the time I've spent with them is really memorable. So thanks guys. Happy 2nd Anniversary.

- Soushi

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Black Rabbit
Translator and QC

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is recruiting
Apply!

THE FLOWER AT THE BOTTOM
OF THE VALLEY

THIS IS AS FAR AS I CAN TAKE YOU
YOU'LL NEED TO CROSS ANOTHER MOUNTAIN BEFORE YOU GET TO THE NEXT TOWN, WILL YOU BE ALRIGHT?
YEAH! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!!
TAKE CARE!
I HOPE YOU SAFELY MAKE IT TO YOUR PARENTS HOUSE AND TELL THEM THE NEWS OF YOUR MARRIAGE

AFTER WE CROSS THE MOUNTAIN, WE'LL ARRIVE TO THE JAPANESE SEA! FROM THERE ONE WE'LL GO TO KANTO.
WE'LL BE SEEN IF WE TAKE THE MAIN ROAD.
TE-TSUO.
WHY ARE WE TAKING THIS MOUN-TAIN ROAD?
ISN'T TOKYO THE OTHER WAY?
HMMM THERE SHOULDN'T BE A WATER-FALL HERE..
MY LEG IS AT ITS LIMIT HOW MUCH LONGER DO WE HAVE TO WALK?

SHUT UP!! IT'S NOT MY FAULT, I'M A CITY-BOY, YOU KNOW.
COULD IT BE WE GOT LOST!?

WOSH
THUD!

WE JUST GOT LOST HERE!

WE'LL BE GONE IN AN INSTANT.
IF YOU KNOW A PATH LEADING OFF THIS MOUNTAIN PLEASE TELL US ABOUT IT

W-WAIT.
WE AREN'T ANYONE SUSPI-CIOUS!!

GO BACK.

GO BACK!
THERE'S A VILLAGE OVER THERE...
TAIKO!
WAH !!
WA
MY WOUND ...
ARGH

WAH !!
OW OW OW
I THOUGHT WE WERE GONNA
.....

ALL I SEE IS A
.....
THE GUY FROM
LET'S RUN BEFORE
FINDS US!!
HURRY!
THESE ARE POPPY FLOWERS.

SEE THAT SHED OVER THERE, THE SMELL OF RAW OPIUM IS COMING FROM THERE...
THIS AWFUL SMELL OF MEDICINE?
WE CAN'T CLIMB UP HERE....
THE ONLY WAY OUT IS
THOSE ROCKS....

WE WON'T KNOW YOU.
YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW.
WE ALSO CAN'T LET YOU LEAVE THIS VILLAGE.
Ohhh!

THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO GO BACK.
.....
ALTO-GETHER THERE ARE 54 PEOPLE LIVING HERE
THIS SURE IS A SMALL VILLAGE.

JUST LOOK.
THIS VILLAGE IS CURSED.
GRAND MA.
THE BOY FROM BEFORE ...
.....

AT LORD KIYOMORI'S FACE
NO ONE HAS TOUCHED IT,
YET IT GROWS SCARIER WITH EACH YEAR.
IT GOT MAD AT THE PEOPLE LIVING HERE,
FOR GROWING DEPENDANT ON SUCH FLOWERS!!
NO!
THIS VILLAGE IS CURSED!!
IT'S PROBABLY JUST SOMEONE PULLING A PRANK
THAT'S ALSO THE REASON WHY NO ONE CAN HAVE KIDS.
LET'S FORGET ABOUT THE LAW AND LEAVE THIS VILLAGE.
LET'S GO!
SHUT IT, MANJI!!

BUT.
.....
THE LAW IS ABSO-LUTE
THERE WILL BE 56 OF US HERE
IF THOSE TWO STAY HERE.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND THAT GRANDMA?
THAT WILL BE ONE TOO MANY
THANK YOU.
YOUR FEELINGS MANJI.
I UNDER-STAND.
HA?

WE NEED TO CON-CEIVE A CHILD?
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT IT'S DUE TO THIS BEING A SMALL VILLAGE AND EVERYONE'S BLOOD MIXING TOO MUCH....
JUST LIKE MANJI SAID, THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY CHILDREN BORN HERE IN A LONG TIME.

YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORK AT ALL.
IT'S NOT SUCH A BAD DEAL FOR YOU GUYS.
WE NEED NEW BLOOD.
OR THE FACT THAT YOU ALL HAVE BEEN CONSUMMATING OPIUM FOR A LONG TIME, THAT COULD ALSO BE THE REASON.
YOU'RE NEWLY-WEDS AREN'T YOU? YOU SHOULD ENJOY YOURSELVES.
YOU'LL EAT DELICIOUS FOOD IN ORDER TO RAISE A LOVELY BABY
SINCE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO OUT OF THIS VALLEY.
YOU CAN GO ANY-WHERE YOU LIKE INSIDE THE VILLAGE.
IT'S NOT AS IF WE'RE REALLY FREE...
BUT,
CHANGE ONCE THEY GIVE BIRTH
WOMEN,

ONCE YOU HAVE A CHILD
AND THE SAME RULES FOR ME?
YOU WON'T EVEN WANT TO GO OUT ANYMORE.
AND YOU'LL HAVE THE CHILD AS HOSTAGE, MUM
AND WE NEED A GUARANTEE THAT YOU WON'T BETRAY US.
USE IT WELL

IT'S STILL BRIGHT OUT-SIDE!!
I SHOULD STAY HIDDEN LIKE THIS.
THAT'S RIGHT,
THEY'LL HAVE NO USE FOR US SO THEY'D KILL US
THEY FOUND OUT I'M A

BABY?
MAKE A
COULD YOU LEAVE ME ALONE FOR A WHILE
IT SHOULD LOOK LIKE THIS
WAIT NOW

THEY ALL SEEM TO BE STARING AT ME.

YOU'RE MAKING ME EMBARRASSED!
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT
HE'S BEEN LOOKING AT ME FOR A WHILE NOW...
THAT GUY'S EYES LOOK ESPECIALLY WANTON!
THEY PROBABLY AREN'T USED TO SEEING CITY-GIRLS.
NO WAY
YOU
YOUR NAME IS TAKO-SAN.
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY,
IS HE TRYING TO SAY I'M UGLY!?
WHAT?
EH?
ARE YOU?
ARE ALL THE GIRLS OUT THERE
MUST SOUND FEMININE
YES
.....

EH!?
AND YOUR LAUGHING FACE IS BEAUTIFUL...
.....
YOU LOOK SO SOFT.
I'M SORRY ABOUT BEFORE...
BUT I WAS ACTING FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
HE'S NEVER EVEN SEEN A YOUNG GIRL BECAUSE HE'S STUCK IN THIS VILLAGE.
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM...

HIS EYES GOT SCARY ALL OF A SUDDEN
.....
COULD THIS BE A CASE OF THAT RUMORED PHENOMENON...
I HEARD THAT THE SENSE OF BEAUTY OF GUYS WHO STAYED AT AN ALL-BOYS SCHOOL GOT DISTORTED TO THE POINT WHERE THEY WENT FOR OLDER WOMEN...

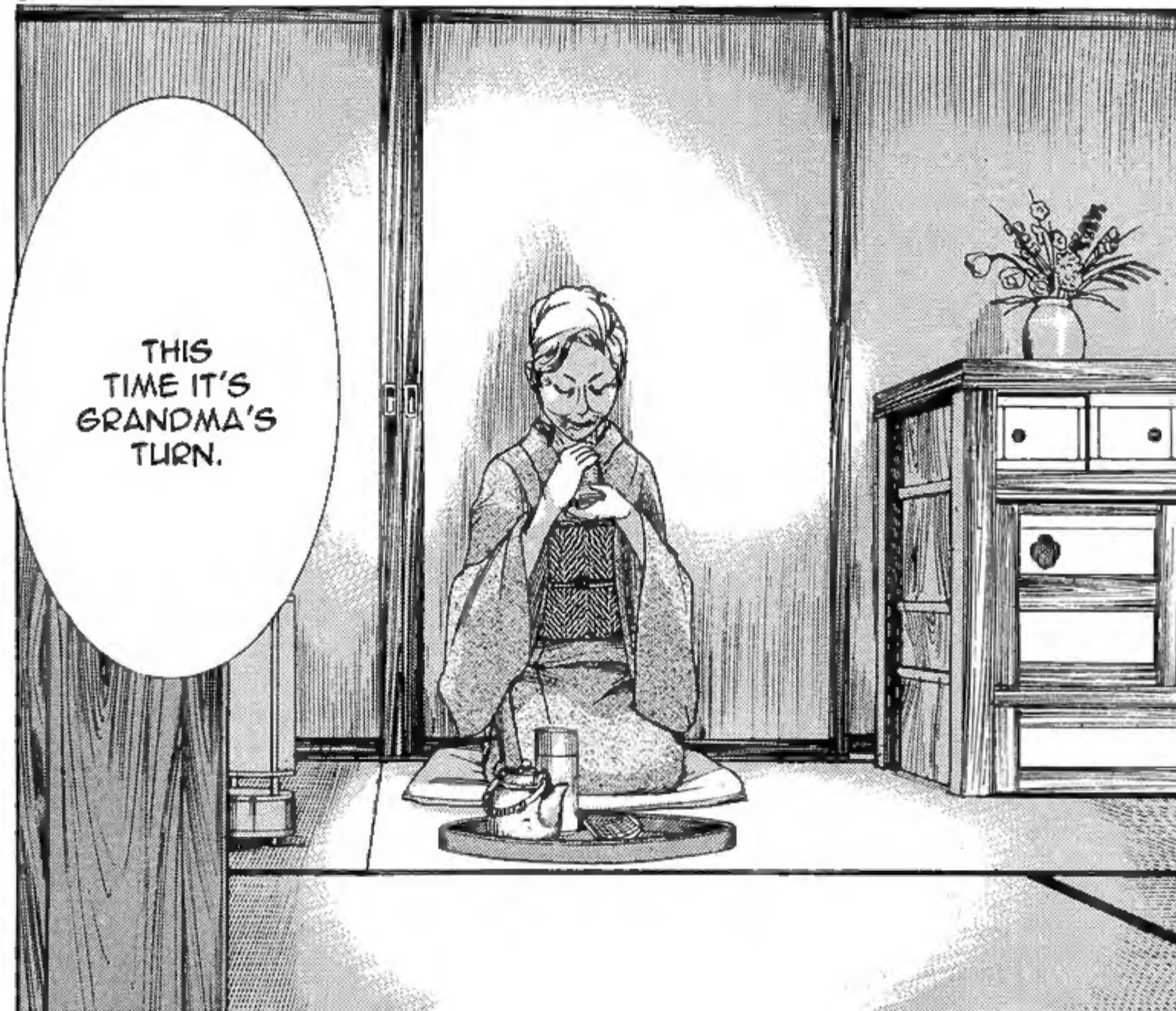
AH, MY SKIRT GOT A BIT WET A WHILE AGO AND NOW IT'S SEE THROUGH AT SOME PARTS!!
YOU CAN LOOK ALL YOU WANT.... HIHIHI.
...AL-RIGHT,
YOUR GRANDMA TOLD US TO CONCEIVE A CHILD, BUT...
ERM
AH!
WHAT IF WE SAID WE REAAALLY DON'T WANT TO?
I THINK THAT YOUNG GUYS WILL,
SINCE WE NEED A CHILD, NO MATTER WHAT.
I TOLD YOU, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE

GO PAY YOU A VISIT WHEN NIGHT FALLS.
PAY ..
ME A VISIT
I ALSO ..... MIGHT COME WHEN THAT TIME COMES ..OR SOME-THING.

IN THIS SMALL WORLD,
THE ONLY THING WOMEN ARE SEEN USEFUL FOR, IS GIVING BIRTH....

IT'S DIFFI-CULT,
TO LIVE AS A WOMAN.
BY THE WAY, MANJI-KUN.
.....
BEFORE YOU MEN-TIONED SOMETHING ABOUT 56 PEOPLE..
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT? IS IT BAD IF THERE ARE 56 PEOPLE?
THE CAPACI-TY OF THIS VILLAGE IS 55 PEOPLE.
.....
IT'LL BE BAD
SO IF THE NUMBER RISES BY JUST ONE PERSON,
BUT...IT CAN'T BE HELPED... THERE ARE 56 PEOPLE HERE NOW.
IT'S A RULE BACK FROM THE HEIAN PERIOD.
WHEN IT GOT TOO CROWD-ED THEY HAD TO DECREASE THE NUMBER OF MOUTHS TO FEED.

DECREASE THE NUMBER OF MOUTHS TO FEED?
THE OLDEST PERSON IN THE VILLAGE
GOT THROWN DOWN FROM THE TOP OF THE WATERFALL.


THIS TIME IT'S GRANDMA'S TURN.

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